Committee (EPC) of NRHM with members from the Central and the State also monitor the progress of NRHM.

8. In addition, to the existing mechanism, Ministry has also initiated the process for undertaking concurrent evaluation of the National Rural Health Mission through independent agencies.

Funding support is provided under NRHM, as per specific proposals from the States/UTs in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for addressing the requirement which *inter-alia* includes support for medicine, equipments, infrastructures and manpower.

CGHS facility in Punjab

3127. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by Central Government employees in Patiala (Punjab) for want of quality medical facilities;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a modern CGHS health unit in Patiala to issue CGHS cards to Central Government employees posted there;

(c) if so, by when the steps in this regard would be taken; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Due to resource constraints it is not possible for the CGHS to be extended to newer areas including Patiala. However, serving Central Government employees in Patiala are entitled to avail health facilities under Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

Central Government pensioners staying in an area not covered by the CGHS can get their pensioner CGHS cards made in a CGHS city nearer to their residence for IPD treatment and also get Fixed Medical Allowance for their OPD needs.

Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme

3128. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to give atleast 70 per cent funds for implementation of the Rajiv Arogya Sri Medical Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when 70 per cent funds will be released to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for financial support for Aarogyasri Scheme,